

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROXFORD.

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

OF THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF DROXFORD

For the Year ended December 31, 1925.

WINCHESTER :

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RURAL DISTRICT OF DROXFORD,
IN THE COUNTY OF SOUTHAMPTON.

ANNUAL
REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended December 31st, 1925.

DROXFORD,

March, 1926.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the Sanitary Circumstances, the Sanitary Administration, and the Vital Statistics of the District for the year ended the 31st December, 1925, viz. :—

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in Acres).—48,644.

Population (Census, 1921).—12,790.

Population (estimated 1925).—13,350.

Physical features and general character of the Area.—The District is made up of fourteen scattered villages, with the small town of Bishop's Waltham. Eight of the villages are in the Meon Valley, the levels of which range from 594ft. at Filmore Hill, Westmeon, to about 160ft. at Soberton. The level at Hambledon is from 213ft. to

200ft. and the other villages range from about 200ft. down to 116ft. above sea level. It is an Agricultural District, is hilly, and extensively wooded, the subsoil mostly chalk, and in other parts clay and sand.

Number of Inhabited Houses (1921).—3402.

Number of Families or separate Occupiers (1921).—3403

Rateable Value.—£78,489.

Sum Represented by a Penny Rate.—£249.

Social conditions, including the chief occupations of the inhabitants, and the influence of any particular occupation on public health.—The majority of the inhabitants are employed on the land; in a fair proportion of the District, especially at Soberton, Soberton Forest, Newtown, Hundred Acres, Swanmore, Shirrell Heath, Shedfield, Waltham Chase, Curdrige, and Durley, there are a lot of small holdings, where the people go in for fruit growing, especially strawberries, gooseberries, currants, plums, cherries, and apples; vegetables are also grown to a large extent, the people taking their produce into Portsmouth and Southampton. There is no particular occupation that has any prejudicial effect on public health; the principal occupation of working on the land should be conducive to good health.

Vital Statistics.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	85	70
1. Enteric Fever	1	—
2. Smallpox	—	—
3. Measles	—	—
4. Scarlet Fever	—	2
5. Whooping Cough	1	—
6. Diphtheria	1	1
7. Influenza	1	—
8. Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—
9. Meningococci Meningitis	—	—
10. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	7	1
11. Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—
12. Cancer, Malignant Disease	15	13
13. Rheumatic Fever	—	—
14. Diabetes	—	2
15. Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc.	6	5
16. Heart Disease	8	14
17. Arterio-Sclerosis	3	3
18. Bronchitis	7	3
19. Pneumonia (all forms)	3	4
20. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—
21. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	1
22. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	1	—
23. Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	2
24. Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—
25. Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	4
26. Puerperal Sepsis	—	—
27. Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	—
28. Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	6	2
29. Suicide	1	—
30. Other Deaths from Violence	4	1
31. Other defined Diseases	18	12
32. Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	—

SPECIAL CAUSES (included above).

Poliomyelitis	—	—
Polioencephalitis... ..	—	—

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR	(Total	13	2
	{ Illegitimate	1	—

TOTAL BIRTHS	105	87
Legitimate	100	85
Illegitimate	5	2

Death Rate of Infants under one year, per 1000 births, 78.1

General Death Rate, 11.61.

The amount of Poor Law Relief.—The sums expended during the financial year 1924-1925, were as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Maintenance of Inmates of Workhouse	1319	4	10
Out-Door Relief, including Non-Resident Relief - - -	1472	9	4
Maintenance of Children in Portsmouth Children's Home - - -	94	0	7
Out-Relief, on behalf of other Unions -	193	16	0
Maintenance of Patients in Mental Hospitals, Expenses of Conveyances, etc. - - - - -	234	3	1
Children Boarded-Out - - -	9	16	0
Children " " on behalf of other Unions - - -	94	19	7
Maintenance of Persons in Infirmary and Homes - - - -	175	10	3

The Extent to which Hospital and other forms of Gratuitous Medical Relief are Utilized.—There is a Cottage Hospital at Shedfield, where a considerable number of poor people are admitted for treatment, some from the District, some from London, and some from the neighbouring towns; there is a Dispensary there, where people are treated as out-patients; three Doctors in the neighbourhood give their services free, each taking four months in the year, and attend there every Friday, and visit the in-patients as often as necessary. Other cases in the District requiring Hospital treatment go to Winchester or Portsmouth Hospitals, tickets of admission being obtained from the gentry living in the District, many of whom are subscribers. The Friendly Societies in the District also subscribe, and give tickets of admission to their Members.

Winchester Hospital has an insurance scheme, whereby people pay four shillings a year, or more, if they can afford it, and when requiring Hospital treatment, they are given a ticket of admission. There is no difficulty in this District to obtain Hospital treatment when required.

There are no causes of sickness or invalidity, which have been specially noteworthy in the area during the past five years.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

HOSPITALS PROVIDED or SUBSIDISED by the LOCAL AUTHORITY, or by the COUNTY COUNCIL.

- (1) **Tuberculosis.**—Provided by the County Council.
- (2) **Maternity.**—There is a Maternity Ward provided by the County Council at Winchester Hospital, to which bad cases can be sent, the patient paying a fee, when able.

There is a Maternity Ward at Droxford Workhouse for cases coming into the Workhouse for their confinement.
- (3) **Children.**—Children are sent to Winchester and Portsmouth Hospitals, and there is a Convalescent Hospital at Shedfield (in the District), with forty beds.
- (4) **Fever.**—The Local Authority has entered into an Agreement with the Alton Joint Hospital Committee to send fever and diphtheria cases to the Alton Isolation Hospital when isolation is impossible in their own homes, or where it would inflict any particular hardship on the people in keeping the case at home, in businesses, etc.
- (5) **Small-pox.**—The County Council has taken over some of the existing Small-pox Hospitals in the County, for the reception of any cases of small-pox occurring in the several Districts in the County.
- (6) **Other.**—None.

The Hospitals available for the District are Portsmouth, Winchester, and Southampton Hospitals, all situated outside the District. The accommodation is ample to meet the needs of the District.

There is also the Shedfield Cottage Hospital, situated in the District, which is supported by voluntary contributions, and charges a fee of 12/6 a week to each patient.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION for UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS, and HOMELESS CHILDREN in the AREA.

A few unmarried mothers are provided for in the Workhouse; they go there for confinement and afterwards return to their own homes.

Some illegitimate infants are provided for in the Workhouse. Homeless children are admitted to the Workhouse; and, if of school age, are sent to Portsmouth Children's Home, or boarded-out with foster parents.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (a) **For Infectious Cases.**—The Alton Authority send their own Ambulance for infectious cases, and bring them back to their homes when well.
- (b) **For Non-infectious Cases.**—There are two Ambulances available for the District, one at Bishop's Waltham and the other at Hambledon.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.—Under County Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health, part time, salary contribution under the Public Health Acts, M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P., Medical Officer to Droxford Workhouse and District, and Public Vaccinator.

Sanitary Inspector, whole time, salary contribution under the Public Health Acts, Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Superintendent of Bishop's Waltham Scavenging, Building Surveyor, Petroleum Inspector, and Inspector under the New Slaughter-house Order, and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, which came into operation on April 1st, Inspector of Factories and Workshops, and Inspector of Cowsheds and Dairies.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

- (a) **General.**—Practically all the Villages in the District have a Parish Nurse, some of the Nurses serving two or three Villages; in two instances, the nursing in the Village is done by a Married Woman, who has, previous to marriage, been a Parish Nurse.
- (b) **For Infectious Diseases, e.g., Measles.**—The Parish Nurse attends, unless she has a confinement case.

Nature of the Arrangements in the District.—The several Parish Nurses are kept up by voluntary contributions.

Neither the County Council nor the Local Authority provide any of the Nurses.

Midwives.—There is no employment of, or subsidy to, practising Midwives by the Local Authority.

There are a few Midwives practising in the District, but most of the midwifery is done by the Parish Nurse, in conjunction with the Doctor.

Chemical Work.—Under County Council.

Legislation in Force :—

Bye-laws.—Building Bye-laws, May, 1924.

Regulations.—Cowsheds, Dairies, and Milkshops' Regulations, January 1st, 1908.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.—The Water Supply of the District, on the whole, is satisfactory; the main part of Bishop's Waltham (the most populated parish in the District), part of Curdrige, and the Bishop's Waltham end of Waltham Chase are supplied from the Mains of the Southampton Corporation Waterworks; and parts of Shedfield, Soberton, and Swanmore are supplied from the Mains of the Gosport Waterworks Company; in each instance the water is obtained from deep wells sunk in the chalk, at the junction of the clay with the chalk, and the supply is constant; there is no possibility of contamination in either case; the Gosport Waterworks Company's pumping station is close to Soberton Mill, the water is pumped from there into a large reservoir at the top of Gravel Hill, and is supplied by gravitation; the Southampton Corporation Waterworks pumping station is at Bishop's Waltham, the water is pumped into a reservoir at the top of Vernon Hill, and is supplied to the houses by gravitation. The rest of the District's water supply is obtained from wells sunk (in the majority of cases) in the chalk, and in other instances sand and clay; in a few isolated instances rain-water tanks; there are two spring wells at Swanmore, which supply a few houses in Chapel Road, Spring Lane, and Chase Road; the supply on the whole is satisfactory, where difficulties arise they are chiefly due to seasonal

conditions. None of the waters in the District have any particular action on lead, as they are fairly hard. No case of lead poisoning has come under my notice during the year.

Several cases of contamination of well water were dealt with during the year, in five instances I analysed the water, and found it polluted, the owners concerned were required to remove the source of pollution, or sink a new well, or clean out and properly cover the well; where defective drains or cesspools were found in the vicinity of wells, the cesspools were removed to a suitable distance, and the drains reconstructed under the supervision of the Inspector, and tested on completion with the water test.

During the year samples of water were analysed by me in connection with twenty-six new houses being built by private owners, and found good, with the exception of one.

Five samples were collected on complaint and analysed by me, in four instances were found to be polluted.

Rivers and Streams.—The River Meon flows through the Meon Valley, the amount of pollution is practically nil, except, perhaps, in very wet seasons, when the springs are high, there may be a slight amount of pollution from a few farm-yards, but at that time the amount of water flowing is so great as to render the pollution practically nil.

Bishop's Waltham Pond and the Hamble River are polluted by the slop water and some of the sewage of Bishop's Waltham. No action taken at present to check it, beyond a more effective system of scavenging, and the water course flowing through Bishop's Waltham is kept cleansed by the District Council under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, but the water is not used for domestic or any other purpose.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There are no sewerage works or sewage disposal works in the District. Bishop's Waltham has a Scavenging Contract, but in the remaining part of the District the owners and occupiers are responsible for their own arrangements.

Several large Estates are fitted with modern septic tank systems.

Closet Accommodation.—The Closet accommodation throughout the District is chiefly of the privy and earth closet type; the earth closet predominates in the isolated parts of the District, the newer type of houses are chiefly fitted with earth closets, and in the areas supplied by the Water Companies, the proportion of water closets is naturally greater. The approximate number of closets are: privies 1270, earth closets 1621, and water closets 673. There has been an increase of 73 in the number of water closets in the last five years.

Scavenging.—In Bishop's Waltham an area comprising the central part of the parish is defined, and the scavenging is done by contract, under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, and the conditions of the contract provide for the collection of earth closet contents and ash bins twice a week, whilst ash pits, privies, and cesspools are emptied on application from the householders concerned.

In the remaining part of the District the occupiers are responsible for the disposal of the refuse, etc., from their own establishments.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Appended is a summary of the work done in the Sanitary Inspector's department during the year, which has been done in a satisfactory manner.

Summary of Work done in Inspector's Department during the Year.

			NUMBER OF		ABATEMENT NOTICES.		NUISANCES ABATED AFTER NOTICES BY		NOTICES IN HAND.	
			Inspections made	Defects found	Informal by Inspector	Formal by Authority	Inspector	Authority		
Dwelling-houses & Schools	{	Foul Conditions	...	15	2	2	...	2	...	...
		Structural Defects	...	161	66	63	3	58	3	5
		Over-crowding	...	8	3	3	...	1	...	2
		Lodging-houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cowsheds, Milk Shops, and Dairies	...	209	24	24	...	24	...	...
		Bakehouses	...	101	13	13	...	12	...	1
		Slaughter-Houses and Knackers' Yards	...	284	42	42	...	39	...	3
Excluding Bake-houses	{	Factories & Workshops	...	75	10	10	...	10	...	...
		Ashpits, Privies, Cess-pools, etc.	...	38	18	17	1	15	1	2
		House Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Water Supply	...	42	5	5	...	2	...	3
		Animals improperly kept	...	28	11	11	...	10	...	1
		Other Nuisances	...	25	18	18	...	14	...	4
	Excluding Slaughter-houses, Bake-houses, & Dairies	{	Places where Food is Prepared	...	51	4	4	...	4	...
Places of Public Entertainment			...	15	...	...	...	...	...	...
		Cinemas, Public Halls, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals			...	1052	216	212	4	191	4	21
Complaints received			...	...	...	...	...	...	61	
Seizures of unwholesome food			...	...	...	...	...	...	2	
Water taken for analysis			...	...	...	...	...	...	31	
Condemned as unfit			...	...	...	...	...	...	5	
House visits in connection with infectious disease			...	...	...	...	...	...	74	
Houses disinfected after infectious disease			...	...	...	...	...	...	27	
Schools disinfected after infectious disease			...	...	...	...	...	...	1	

Smoke Abatement.—No action taken or needed.

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.—The only Bye-laws or Regulations in force in the District are Building Byelaws and Regulations controlling Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops. There is only one house let in lodgings in the District. There are two Knackers' yards in the District, which are registered, one at Swanmore and the other at Denmead, which were frequently visited during the year, they are both kept in a satisfactory manner. There is no need for Regulations in respect of underground sleeping rooms, as there are none in the District.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice.—None.

Schools.—The Sanitary Condition of the Schools in the District has been generally improved, and is on the whole fairly satisfactory, the water supply is obtained from the Water Companies in those parts of the District served by the Water Companies, but the majority of them derive their supply from wells. The Closet accommodation is usually of the Earth Closet system, those at Bishop's Waltham Schools being collected twice a week, under the Scavenging arrangements.

The teachers are provided with postcards to notify cases of infectious disease coming to their notice to the County Medical Officer of Health and myself. Measles and Chickenpox have been prevalent during the year. The following Schools were closed during the year:—Newtown on account of Measles, from January 5th to January 16th inclusive; Meonstoke on account of Measles, from February 3rd to February 27th inclusive; Swanmore on account of Chickenpox and Influenza, from February 9th to February 20th inclusive; Soberton on account of Measles, from February 9th to February 20th inclusive; Westmeon on account of Measles from May 21st to May 29th inclusive.

One School was disinfected.

The County Council appoint School Medical Officers for the Medical Inspection of School Children, and also a School Nurse, which has the effect of keeping some of the children more cleanly, especially in regard to vermin; the

teachers on detecting verminous heads send the children home with instructions how to get rid of them. The children with defective eyesight, adenoids and large tonsils, bad teeth, and general debility are being seen to.

HOUSING.

(I.) General Housing Conditions in the District :—

1. General Housing Conditions.—Fairly good.
2. (a) Extent of shortage or excess of houses.—There is a general slight shortage of houses in most of the villages, but it is very difficult to find out the number, in one parish a large number of houses have been built, and are immediately occupied by people from Portsmouth.
- (b) Measures taken or contemplated to meet any shortage.—Assistance under the Housing, &c., Act, 1923.
3. Information as to any important changes in Population during the period under review, or anticipated in the future.—None.

(II.) Overcrowding :—

1. Extent.—There is very little overcrowding in the District, only three cases coming under notice.
2. Causes.—Shortage of houses of a low rental.
3. Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with Overcrowding. — Assistance under Housing, &c., Act, 1923.
4. Principal Cases of Overcrowding during the year, 1925, and action taken.—One case, the overcrowding was abated after notice by the Inspector, and in two instances the notices are in hand, and the people looking out for more suitable premises.

(III.) Fitness of Houses :—

1. (a) General Standard of housing in the District.—Fairly good.

- (b) General character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.—Windows too small, do not open and shut, dampness in walls, and tiled and brick floors, defective roofs, thatched and tiled; primitive drainage; bedrooms only accessible by passing through another room; yards unpaved; no means of storing food under proper conditions; without drains or sinks of any description; poor privy accommodation.
 - (c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners, or to acts of waste or neglect by tenants.—The faults are on both sides.
2. General action taken as regards unfit houses under:—
- (a) The Public Health Acts.—Informal notices served; no legal proceedings usually required.
 - (b) The Housing Acts.—Informal Notices served, Closing Orders, and Demolition Orders, where necessary.
3. Difficulties found in remedying unfitness, either under the Public Health Acts, or under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.—High cost of material and labour.
- Special Measures taken or suggested, including, for example, any special action to secure improved management of property by owners, or better care of property by the tenants; the gradual carrying out of repairs according to agreed arrangements.—Such measures not required.
- Any special method of dealing with unfit back to back houses, or other types of insanitary property.—There are no back to back houses in the District.
4. Conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards Water supply, Closet accommodation, and Refuse disposal, together with measures taken during the year in these matters.—Generally satisfactory. A scavenging system, by contract, at Bishop's Waltham.

(IV.) Unhealthy Areas:—

Information as to complaints received or representations made, and action taken, in regard to unhealthy areas.—None.

(V.) Bye-laws relating to Houses, to Houses let in Lodgings, and to Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc. :—

1. As to working of existing Bye-laws:—The Building Bye-laws are proving of great value, and the Members of the Housing Committee are enabled to demand the observance of proper conditions of ventilation, lighting, sanitary accommodation, water supply, etc., for all new premises requiring their approval before erection. Legal proceedings were instituted in four instances for breaches of the Building Bye-laws, and a conviction was recorded in each case.

Eighty-four new houses were erected during the year, as against sixty-two in the previous year, which is a record for this District. This desirable result has been obtained with the aid of the Housing, &c., Act, 1923, without which the number of houses built, would have been very few, in fact seventy-six out of the total of eighty-four were erected by the aid of the Subsidy.

In connection with Housing Inspection work, Closing Orders were made on three dwelling-houses, and at the end of the year one of these had been demolished by the owner without the service of a demolition order. Of the houses throughout the District a considerable number are of the residential and country-house type; farmhouses and cottages provided on estates and farms; a large proportion of owner-occupied houses; and thirty-four Council Houses, consequently, the number of houses, according to the circumstances of the District, that require inspection is not so large as would be found in most Districts of the same population.

The few cases of overcrowding that have come under my notice were amongst the poorer people, who could not afford to pay more than a few shillings a week rental.

2. As to need for new Bye-laws, or revision of existing Bye-laws :—No need.

(VI.) General and Miscellaneous :—

Generally, an account of any action bearing on the Public Health, not covered by the above particulars, which has been taken during the year by the Local Authority in connection with overcrowding, insanitary property, and housing, whether under the Housing Acts or the Public Health Acts, including any action taken by the Authority to provide information as to the proper use of household fittings (*e.g.*, sinks, waterclosets, etc.) and the disposal of household refuse so far as possible by burning :—No specific action.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of New Houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	-	-	-	84
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :—				
(i) By the Local Authority	-	-	-	—
(ii) By other bodies or persons	-	-	-	76

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)				66
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	-	-	-	45
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-	-	-	3

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	- - - -	41
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2. Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	-	35
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28, 1919 Act.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	- - -	41
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	- - -	35
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	- - -	—
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by Owners of intention to close		—

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	-	20
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—		
(a) By Owners	- - -	18
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	- - -	—

C.—Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders		3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made		3

- | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| (3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit | - | - | - | — |
| (4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | | | | — |
| (5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | - | - | - | — |

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) **Milk Supply.**—At the end of the year there were 132 Cowsheds and Milkshops on the Register, and no one has yet taken advantage of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, to produce and sell graded Milk under licence from the Ministry of Health. Milk production in this District has not yet, generally speaking, attained the high standard desirable, but advantage is taken, where opportunities offer, to advise producers in the various matters necessary of attention to ensure a clean Milk of low bacterial count and good keeping qualities.

Several new cowsheds have been erected during the past few years on farms, occupied by tenant farmers, following the Sanitary Inspector's letters to the owners concerning the unsuitable insanitary cowsheds, etc., provided, some of them being old structures of centuries' standing, and the tenants have since expressed to him their appreciation of the improved conditions of production.

Eighteen samples of Milk were taken under the Food and Drugs Act, two of which were found unsatisfactory, one was 30% deficient in milk fat, and the other 11.6% deficient in milk fat.

(b) **Meat.**—(i.) **Meat Inspection.**—The New (Slaughterhouse) Order and the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, came into operation on April 1st, 1925.

Under the Slaughterhouse Order, there are seventeen registered slaughterhouses, and four licensed slaughterhouses; two of the registered premises are knackers' yards, and most of the others are used chiefly for the slaughter of small animals, pigs and calves.

A considerable business is conducted in this District in the slaughter of animals for wholesale purposes, the dead meat being supplied to butchers in Portsmouth, Southampton, and other towns outside this District. Three or four of these firms average about six hundred pigs through the season, and the work of adequate supervision and inspection is extremely difficult. The slaughtering times at a number of these places coincide, and as they are miles apart, it is impossible to examine anything like a reasonable percentage of the animals slaughtered, even if the Inspector's various other duties did not intervene.

Only two cases of slaughter due to accident were reported, and in each case the carcasses were passed as good.

Two animals (pigs) were condemned, on examination at the time of slaughter, as unfit for food and were voluntarily surrendered, one affected with tuberculosis and the other with fatty infiltration of the liver, with cirrhosis and pronounced jaundice.

One reason for the small percentage of diseased animals found, is that dealers and butchers are becoming very chary of bringing suspicious looking animals into the slaughterhouses. Nearly 300 visits were made to slaughterhouses during the year, in addition to a number of cottages, where occupiers gave notice of intention to kill for sale, usually in the case of pigs.

(ii.) Administration of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, as regards Stalls, Shops, Stores, and Vehicles :—

The Butchers' shops, stores, etc., were visited, and the powers provided under the (Meat) Orders were fully exercised to enforce cleanly conditions of trading. These measures were carried out without friction, the tradesmen being most willing to comply with the Regulations.

(iii.) The Management of the Public Slaughterhouses :—
There are none in the District.

By reason of the amount of work necessary under these Regulations, the Inspector is of opinion that more time is required to be devoted to the meat work, than he is able to give in order to render them as effective as the Ministry of Health expect them to be.

Private Slaughterhouses in use in the District at the undermentioned dates :—

	In 1920.	In January, 1925.	In December, 1925.
REGISTERED ...	13	Nil	17
LICENSED ...	Nil	Nil	4
	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	13	Nil	21

(c) **Other Foods.**—Premises where food was prepared, sold, or exposed for sale were constantly inspected, the visits including Fishmongers, Fish Hawkers' Vehicles, Fried Fish Shops, Grocers and Bakers' premises, etc. ; the Sanitary conditions of the above places was maintained at a satisfactory standard, and the quality of the various foods good.

The bakehouses, of which there are twenty-two, are kept in a satisfactory manner, one hundred and one visits were made to bakehouses, thirteen defects were found, twelve were remedied after notice by the Inspector, and one is still in hand. Fifty-one visits were made to other places where food was sold, prepared or exposed for sale, four defects were found and remedied after notice by the Inspector.

(d) No cases of food poisoning have come under my notice during the year.

(e) **Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts.**—Action under the Sale of Foods and Drugs Acts is taken by an Inspector under the County Council. Thirty-six samples were taken in this District, they were all found to be good, except two samples of milk which were deficient in milk fat, in one case to the extent of 30 per cent., and the other to the extent of 11·6 per cent.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious Diseases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES GENERALLY.

There are no noteworthy facts to record in regard to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the past five years. Chickenpox was made notifiable in 1923 in this District ; during that year twelve cases were notified ; in 1924 seventy-seven cases were notified ; in 1925 one hundred and fourteen cases were notified. Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council, a supply is kept by me, and any medical man requiring Antitoxin for use in the case of poor people can get it by applying to me.

One case of Encephalitis lethargica occurred in 1923 of a person belonging to the District, but contracted and died outside the District.

There have been very few return cases of Scarlet Fever due to the people's carelessness.

In regard to the diseases notifiable under the Regulations of the 7th of January, 1919.

Pneumonia.—Cases are very often not notified.

Malaria.—Three cases were notified in 1920, and one case in 1922; no case has been notified since.

Dysentery.—No case notified during the past five years.

Trench Fever.—No case notified during the last five years.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are used when necessary, the specimens being sent to the County Laboratory at Winchester, who carry out the examination, free of cost, outfits being supplied free. The report is sent direct to the Medical Man (and if positive, at the same time, a copy of the report to me), and a similar outfit is returned with the report. Swabs of Diphtheria Contacts are taken and sent for examination.

The majority of the cases of infectious diseases are isolated in their own homes and disinfected afterwards by the Sanitary Inspector, with formalin, they are also supplied with disinfectants.

There is no Isolation Hospital in the District, but the District Council have made arrangements with the Alton Council to take cases into their Isolation Hospital, where isolation in their own homes would entail any particular hardship or necessitate the closing of a business.

No use has been made of the tests known as the Schick and Dick tests in this District.

No primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations have been performed by me under the Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.

The School teachers of the several Schools are supplied with postcards to notify the County Medical Officer of Health, and myself, cases of infectious disease coming to their notice; children and families, where there were cases of infectious disease, are excluded from School.

The mortality from Influenza during the past five years has been very low, there being very few deaths.

There are no facilities available in the District for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings, but they are supplied with printed instructions, how to get rid of them.

**NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
DURING THE YEAR 1925.**

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	10	1	2
Diphtheria	11	1	2
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	2	—	1
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Pneumonia	11	—	7
Other diseases generally notifiable (specify disease) Erysipelas	3	—	—
Other diseases notifiable locally (specify disease) Chickenpox	114	—	—

**Tuberculosis.
New Cases and Mortality during 1925.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	5	4	1	—	3	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	11	7	5	—	7	1	—	—

**PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis)
REGULATIONS, 1925.**

One case of Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade came under my notice during the year, but owing to the man refusing to give a sample of his sputum, it was difficult to prove he was in an infectious state, so no action was taken : he has since given up the milk business.

(a) Action taken under Article 3.—None.

(b) Number of cases in which Notices have been served under Article 5.—None.

(c) Number of appeals under Article 6, and their result.—None.

(d) Number of cases in which compensation has been paid, and its average amount.—None.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925, SECTION 62.

Action taken by the Council under this Section during 1925.—None.

MATERNITY and CHILD WELFARE.

Under County Council. There are a few Midwives practising in the District, and most of the Villages have a Parish Nurse (in some instances the Parish Nurse serves two neighbouring Villages). There were no cases of Puerperal Fever, and no deaths from other accidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition, there were no cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum ; no deaths from Measles ; one death from Whooping Cough ; one death from Diarrhoea in a child under two years of age ; no case of Poliomyelitis.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

	Cases.			Vision Unimpaired.	Vision Impaired.	Total Blindness.	Deaths.
	Notified.	Treated.					
		At Home.	In Hospital.				
	None	—	—	—	—	—	—

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, and WORKPLACES.

There were ninety-six Factories and Workshops on the register at the end of the year, twenty-two of which were retail bakehouses where bread and small goods were made for local needs. These bakehouses are subject to special provisions under the "Public Health Acts" for the cleanliness of premises, etc., and one hundred and one visits of inspection were made during the year. Apart from Agriculture there is no other particular industry carried on in this District, and in the seventy-four Workshops remaining, after deducting the bakehouses, the workers are engaged in Tailoring, Dressmaking, Laundry work, Carpentry, Shoeing and General Smithing, Brick-making, Boot repairing, Harness making, Cycle and Motor repairing, and such like work to satisfy local needs. Most of these workshops are one-man concerns, providing employment for the occupier only, or in some cases perhaps, one or two extra hands, and it is only in places such as the brickyards (of which there are six) that a number of workers are employed, consequently very little work is required under the provisions of the Factories and Workshops Act, relating to the employment of females and young persons.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

EDGAR C. PERN, M.O.H.

To the Droxford Rural District Council.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS and WORKPLACES.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspector.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspection. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (4)
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)	1	1	—
Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries)	175	1	—
Workplaces (Other than Outworkers' premises)	—	—	—
Total	176	2	—

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecutions. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	21	19	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	2	2	—
	unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	not separate for sexes	—	—	—
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bake-house (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Other offences	—	—	—	—
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921)				
Total	23	21	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

EDGAR C. PERN,

March, 1926.

Medical Officer of Health.

